

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 18-25 and 28 have been amended. Claims 1-18 and 26-27 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 18-25 and 28 are presented for examination.

### Claim Objections

Claim 23 is objected to because at line 3, “a integrated circuit” appears to be a typographical error of “an integrated circuit”.

Claim 23 has been amended which overcomes the objection. Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

### 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 18-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Herbst, II, U.S. Patent No. 5,457,342 (“Herbst”).

Claim 1, as amended, recites

A system comprising:

- a first device to adjust a polarity associated with a thermoelectric (TEC) module to control a flow of heat, wherein the flow of heat is directed toward a thermal interface material (TIM) to melt the TIM up to an acceptable melt level;
  - a second device to determine whether the TIM has melted up to the acceptable melt level; and
  - an application device to apply the TIM to a heat sink if the TIM is melted has melted up to the acceptable melt level.
- (emphasis added)

Herbst discloses an “integrated circuit cooling apparatus including a *heat-*

*conductive base plate* to be placed against an integrated circuit, a *Peltier Effect cooling module* having a cooling side connected to a top surface of the heat-conductive base plate, a heat radiator assembly connected to a heating side of the Peltier Effect cooling module and a *fan assembly* juxtaposed next to a heat-radiating portion of the heat radiator assembly.” (emphasis added).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, in pertinent part, recites “adjust a polarity associated with a thermoelectric (TEC) module to control a flow of heat; wherein the flow of heat is directed toward a thermal interface material (TIM) to melt the TIM up to an acceptable melt level . . . determine whether the TIM has melted up to the acceptable melt level . . . apply the TIM to a heat sink if the TIM is melted has melted up to the acceptable melt level” (emphasis added). Herbst does not teach or reasonably suggest adjusting a polarity of a TEC to control the flow of heat to melt a TIM up to an acceptable melt level and applying the TIM to a heat sink if the TIM has melted to the acceptable melt level as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Claim 23 includes limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 23 and its dependent claims.

### **Conclusion**

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

### **Invitation for a Telephone Interview**

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

### **Request for an Extension of Time**

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

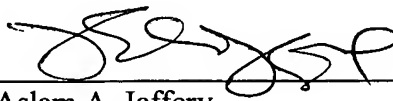
### **Charge our Deposit Account**

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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